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WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH

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**Cwmamman Urban
District Council.**

**Medical Officer of
Health's**

Report

For 1939.



"Amman Valley Chronicle," Ammanford.

CWMAMMAN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Medical Officer of Health's Report for 1939.

GLANAMMAN,

September, 1940.

To the Chairman and Members of the Cwmamman Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,—I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report for the Year ending December 31st, 1939.

Owing to the need for economy in the use of paper, the Report will be slightly curtailed, and reports which are exactly the same as in previous years will not be included.

SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	756 Acres
Registrar-General's Estimate of—					
(a) Resident Population Mid-1939...	...	...	...	...	4,756
(b) Average Population appropriate to the calculation of Death Rates	...	...	...	...	4,725
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1939) according to Rate Books	...	...	...	...	1,225
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£11,606
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£33 11s. 8d.

Live Births—

	Total.	M.	F.
Legitimate	...	...	...
Illegitimate	...	...	...

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated Resident Population Mid-1939—12.5.

Still Births—

	Total.	M.	F.
	2	2	0

Rate per 1,000 (Live and Still Births)—32.6.

Deaths -

	Total.	M.	F.
	45	24	21
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated Average Population	...	...	...
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age	...	...	...
All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	...	...	...
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	...	...	...
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Births	...	...	...

Deaths from Puerperal Causes—

		Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Total (Live & Still) Births
No. 29—Puerpera ¹ Sepsis	...	Nil	Nil
No. 30—Other Puerperal Causes	...	Nil	Nil

Total	...	Nil	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	3
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	Nil

The Birth Rate of 12.5 shows an increase rate over last year (10.7), but still lags behind that for the whole country (15.0).

The Death Rate of 9.5 is the lowest it has been for many years, and compares very favourably with that for England and Wales (12.1).

The deaths from Tuberculosis were two, which is much lower than previous years.

There were three deaths from Cancer, compared with nine for last year.

Two deaths occurred from Scarlet Fever, and two from Influenza.

The deaths from Silicosis numbered two; one of these cases had other contributory causes of death,

The Maternal Mortality Rate due to causes arising out or in consequence of Childbirth was Nil.

The Health of the Area during the year was fairly good, apart from an Epidemic of Scarlet Fever during May and June. There were 46 cases during the year, with two deaths.

There were 15 cases of Pneumonia, with two deaths.

Five cases of Silicosis were diagnosed during the year.

The population is still decreasing rapidly, chiefly due to the young people migrating to other districts in search of work; the population of the Area at Mid-1939 was 111 below what it was in Mid-1938. Since then, a great number of our young men have left to join the Force. At the present time the population has been greatly increased by about 550 by the arrival of evacuees and their mothers.

The number of unemployed were greatly decreased by the end of 1939, due to the greater activity of the collieries, and other industries outside the Area.

SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

The Public Health Officers of the Authority consist of the Clerk, the Sanitary Inspector, and the Medical Officer of Health. The Sanitary Inspector holds the Diploma of the Sanitary Institute.

Laboratory Facilities.—All examinations of Pathological and Bacteriological Specimens are dealt with by the practitioners concerned. These examinations did not come under the scope of the Council.

The Council have now joined the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service, which for a small cost have undertaken to examine all Bacteriological Specimens. This marks a great step forward in the combating of infectious diseases, and will help practitioners greatly in the early diagnosis and prevention of their spreading.

Home Nursing.—The Cwmamman Nursing Association undertakes Home Nursing; two Nurses are employed, both having their S.R.N. and C.M.B. Certificates. Both Nurses undertake Maternity Nursing under the Carmarthenshire County Council. Both Nurses are very efficient in their duties.

Ambulance Facilities.—The District is supplied by the Ammanford and Gwaun-cae-gurwen St. John Ambulances. The service is very good. It was intended to have an Ambulance for the Area, but the war has postponed this plan.

The Infant Welfare Centre is held every fortnight, and does good work in instructing Mothers of the health and progress of the infants. No Ante-Natal Clinics exist in the Area.

Maternity Cases are attended by the District Nurses. Difficult cases are admitted to Carmarthen Maternity Hospital.

Mental Defectives are admitted to Pantglas Home and Carmarthen Mental Hospital.

Health Visitors.—Nurse Roberts is the full-time Health Visitor and School Nurse, and attends at the Infant Welfare Centre. She is engaged by the County Authority.

The School Medical Service, under the County Authority, provides Specialists for the treatment of Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids, Ophthalmic, Dental and Orthopædic cases. Also the regular examination of all School Children.

Tuberculosis cases are seen under the Welsh National Memorial Institution by Dr. Martin Thomas at 24, Quay Street, Ammanford. Facilities are provided for the early diagnosis of cases, examination of contact cases. X-Ray examinations are undertaken at Llanelly, and Bacteriological examinations of Sputa and Pus.

Maternity and Nursing Homes.—Nil.

Hospitals. Public and Voluntary.—Amman Valley Hospital and Swansea Hospital. The Amman Valley Hospital is within the Area; the Hospital has now been extended, and has now 40 beds and 5 cots. Medical, Surgical, Gynæcological, Ophthalmic, and Ear, Nose and Throat cases are admitted. School Children are admitted under the County Authority for Tonsillistony. The progress made by the Hospital since its opening has been very gratifying, and it is hoped that Orthopædic cases will be admitted in the near future. A grant has been received from the Miners' Welfare for the equipment of the extensions.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

The Sanitary Circumstances of the Area have generally improved during the year, and very few complaints were made. These were mainly the practice of some householders of refuse dumping on unauthorised open lands. In these cases the landowners have been served with Notices to abate the nuisance, and such open spaces have been fenced in, resulting in this practice being stopped. The County Council's Main Road Widening Scheme, the curbing and channelling thereby affected, and the construction of improved catchpits and connections to storm water drains recently completed, has been the means of a much needed improvement in roadside gutters which have, for a long time, been most unsatisfactory.

Water.—The Water Supply is still very inadequate during the summer months, but is plentiful in winter. Lack of water in the higher parts of the Area causes serious inconvenience in the summer months, when all the domestic water must be carried from lower levels. There is an abundance of water in the Area. Plans have been made to augment the present supply, but, owing to financial reasons, it has been impossible to do so.

Rivers and Streams—Pollution due to coal dust is diminishing; also less refuse is now being thrown into the river.

Drainage and Sewerage.—As in previous years.

Closest Accommodation.—Conversion from Privies to Water Closets is exceedingly slow. Many houses on the Main Road have not yet been connected up. Notices have been served on many owners to connect up. A lenient attitude has been taken in the past, but stronger measures should be taken in future. Privies are emptied into gardens, and during wet weather streams run through the gardens, carrying effluvia in them. This is very unsatisfactory from a health standpoint, and must sooner or later lead to Epidemics. The total number connected up to date is 863. The estimated number still to be connected up is 358.

Scavenging.—Household refuse is collected twice weekly; the work is carried out in an efficient manner.

Smoke and Dust Abatement.—Houses near collieries still suffer from dust nuisance. Very little can really be done to avoid the dust.

Schools.—The four Schools in the Area are kept in a good state. All have an efficient water supply, and are connected up to the Main Sewer. School Children are supplied with Milk at reduced prices. Undernourished Children are provided with the Oslo Diet. It was not necessary to close the Schools due to any Epidemic.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) *Milk Supply*—All Milk Vendors are Registered. Monthly samples are taken of Grade A Milk. Other samples are frequently taken and reported on for cleanliness, percentage of Fat, etc., by the County Inspector under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, and Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936 and 1938. Cowsheds and Dairies are kept in a satisfactory condition. All Milk Vendors now realise the necessity of absolute cleanliness, and the periodic attention to their cattle's housing.

(b) *Meat and Other Foods*.—The four Slaughterhouses in the Area are kept in a clean condition. Retail Shops are inspected, and were found in a clean condition, Meat being adequately protected from contamination. Most of the Shops are fitted with Refrigerators.

(c) *Adulteration*.—No action was taken except by the County Authority's inspection.

(d) *Housing*.—In Housing there has been no material change, as the conditions generally for some time past have been good, although improvements, after the serving of Preliminary Notices, have been effected to seven properties. Although the conditions in the Valley industrially are not good, some more property owners have connected up their Houses to the Water Carriage Sewer System.

SECTION F.—PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever was very prevalent during the year, 46 cases being notified, the majority being in May and June.

A greater number of Pneumonia cases occurred than in previous years, 15 cases being notified. Two deaths occurred.

A few cases of Whooping Cough were notified during December, but they were not of a serious type.

No Immunisation against Diphtheria was undertaken during the year. The School Children were Immunised during 1938.

No Measles Serum was provided for Prophylaxis nor Attenuation.

Tuberculosis.—No action was required to be taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, nor under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

The Workshops in the area are well kept and no complaints were received.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Members of the Council and Council Staff for their kindness and help.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN DAVIES, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.),

Medical Officer of Health.

September, 1940.

Tuberculosis (New Cases and Mortality) during 1939.

Age Periods	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 to								
1								
5				1				
15	2	1	1					
25	1	1				1		
35		1		2		1		
45	1							
55								
65 and Upwards								
Totals ...	4	3	1	3	—	2	—	—

All Fatal Cases of Tuberculosis were notified.

Notifiable Diseases during the Year 1939.

DISEASE.			Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths.
Small Pox	...	..	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	46	22	2
Diphtheria	...	...	5	5	Nil
Enteric Fever	...	...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	2	2	—
Pneumonia	...	...	15	—	2
Whooping Cough	...	...	2	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis			1	1	—

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1939.

Other Liver Diseases	...	...	...	1M	...
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	1M	... 3F
Congenital Debility and Prematurity	...	...	...	1M	...
Senility	...	...	...	...	... 1F
Other Violence	...	...	...	2M	...
Other Dened Diseases	...	...	...	...	... 3F
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	... 1F
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	1M	... 2F
Heart Disease	...	...	...	9M	... 5F
Other Circulatory Disorders	...	...	...	1M	... 1F
Pneumonia	...	...	...	2M	...
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	1M	...
Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	1M	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	1M	... 1F
Influenza	...	...	...	1M	... 1F
Respiratory T.B.	...	...	...	...	... 2F
Cancer	...	..	...	1M	... 2F
				23M	... 22F

